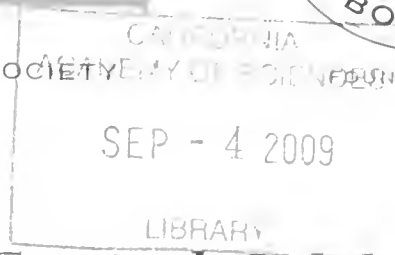


# THE GULL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY



## Festival Celebrates Richmond Shoreline

As Golden Gate Audubon board member Whitney Dotson surveys Point Pinole, site of the fourth North Richmond Shoreline Festival on September 26, he likes what he sees. "This is going to be the biggest shoreline festival yet," he says. "People are really starting to understand the need to protect and celebrate the North Richmond shoreline."

Extending from Point San Pablo to Point Pinole on the southern shore of San Pablo Bay, the North Richmond shoreline consists of nearly 1,000 acres of intertidal mudflats, over 500 acres of tidal marsh, and San Francisco Bay's largest eelgrass bed. The area includes 218-acre Breuner Marsh and Rheem Creek, now part of the East Bay Regional Park District. These habitats are critical to thousands of migrating birds every year, including Red Knots, Dunlins, Black-bellied plovers, and Western Sandpipers. The shoreline, designated an Audubon Important Bird Area, is also home to Black Rails, Clapper Rails, and one of the bay's few nesting pairs of Osprey.

As in years past, the admission-free festival includes bird and marsh walks, activities for children, live music, and a free barbecue (see page 10). This year's event will honor the life of one of the shoreline's great protectors: Ethel Dotson, community activist and Whitney's sister, who passed away a few days before the last

**FESTIVAL** continued on page 10



Caspian Tern colony at Pier 70 in San Francisco.

## Golden Gate Audubon's Southern Waterfront Campaign

San Francisco's southern waterfront has long been appreciated for its birding and outdoor recreation opportunities. Since the mid-1970s, the waterfront has been undergoing a slow transformation and redevelopment that has included new parks, open space, and even restored shoreline habitats. Golden Gate Audubon helped create Heron's Head Park, a vital foraging site for migratory and overwintering birds. Today, we remain actively engaged in advocacy, monitoring, and restoration projects along the waterfront.

### PROTECTING CANDLESTICK POINT

Candlestick Point State Recreation Area (SRA) provides excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation, family outings, fishing, and wildlife viewing in San Francisco's Bayview-Hunter's Point community. In 2004, Golden Gate Audubon published the results of a two-year survey of the SRA's wildlife: the findings revealed that the park is an important site for plants and wildlife, including 148 species of birds, 10 species of mammals, and 14 species of butterflies.

Despite its significance to wildlife and local residents, Candlestick Point is under constant threat from development projects on adjacent land. GGA has joined with

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The Golden Gate Audubon Society was founded January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. Golden Gate Audubon Supporting Membership is \$25 per year. Renewals should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office. The board of directors meets six times per year (schedule can be obtained from the main office).

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Design and layout e.g. communications

# Golden Gate Audubon Holds Successful Nest Box Workshop

Thanks to hands-on work by Golden Gate Audubon members and volunteers, two dozen, custom-made houses are now up and ready in East Bay backyards and parks for cavity-nesting birds, including Western Bluebirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Tree Swallows. At a workshop on a hot Saturday in late June, participants of all ages assembled kits of pre-cut pieces into finished nest boxes. The workshop, organized by GGA's East Bay Conservation Committee (EBCC) and Marin Wildcare, was fun as well as productive. Participants took their boxes home to install in backyards or donated them to Wildcare for placement in Tilden Regional Park by Wildcare volunteer Mari Litsky.

"We were inspired to hold the workshop because cavity-nesting birds are losing prime nesting habitats in tree trunks and wooden fence posts," says EBCC Chair Phil Price. "These days, trees are cleared away before they decay, and modern fence posts are no longer made of wood. Fewer nesting sites mean more competition and that nest holes often are usurped by European Starlings and House Sparrows."

In response to a request for donated wood, GGA member Sandy Thacker, who teaches woodworking to Oakland elementary school students, contributed a large stash of unused redwood, which she also cut into precisely sized pieces. Additional wood was donated by Phil Price and pre-cut by GGA volunteers Judith Dunham, Juliet Lamont, Beth Robinson, and Rusty Scalf. GGA staff members Kevin Consey, Jennifer Robinson Maddox, and Stephanie Strait also contributed to the workshop's success.

Watch *The Gull* and the Golden Gate Audubon website for announcements of future nest box workshops.

—Marjorie Blackwell

## Remembering John Austin

We at Golden Gate Audubon pay tribute to longtime member John Austin, who died in a plane accident in late May. John's wife, Jacqui Smalley, is a former GGA board member, vice president, and active member of several GGA committees during the past decade. Jacqui and John have been strong supporters of Golden Gate Audubon, and our organization is extremely grateful for their commitment and dedication. We extend our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Jacqui.

—Mark Welther, Executive Director



Jennifer Robinson Maddox

# California Coastal Cleanup Day Marks 25th Year

**O**n September 19, thousands of volunteers will turn out to remove trash from California beaches, lakes, and waterways. Golden Gate Audubon needs your help at Pier 94 in San Francisco and Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline in Oakland. Last year, across the state, more than 70,000 volunteers collected over 1.6 million pounds of trash.

This massive quantity of debris, much of it plastic, is not merely unsightly—it is dangerous and often fatal for wildlife. In the North Pacific Ocean, the known area of debris accumulation is called the North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone—or the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch.” Because plastic never fully degrades, thousands of marine animals die annually through entanglement, ingestion, and suffocation. Moreover, the chemical constituents in the various types of plastic enter marine food webs when animals, especially seabirds and fish, unknowingly ingest plastic. Toxins eventually concentrate in their tissues, causing numerous ailments for both these animals and those that consume them.

Research indicates that seabirds are accurate indicators of plastic pollution in the North Pacific. The ingestion of plastic varies with the feeding styles of seabirds, the length of their bills, and the size of the plastic pieces. As surface foragers, such birds as fulmars, petrels, shearwaters,

and albatrosses are more likely to consume plastic and eventually feed it to their chicks. One study reported that plastic fragments were detected in 71 percent of the 190 Northern Fulmars found dead along a stretch of Central California coastline. A study on Leach’s Storm Petrels also revealed high levels of plastic ingestion: 20 percent in nonbreeding areas such as the tropical Pacific, compared to 100 percent in the North Pacific breeding area.

How does so much plastic get into the Pacific Ocean? The sources are numerous. As students and family participants in Golden Gate Audubon’s Eco-Education Programs learn, the majority of trash that flows to the ocean begins in city streets around the Pacific Rim. Trash enters storm drains and then a network of underground systems that are either separate from or combined with city sewer systems. If storm water “runoff” enters a sewer system, some of the trash is removed through treatment. During heavy rainfall, however, sewer systems, including those in the Bay Area, often fail and spew trash and other contaminants into the bay and ocean. In cities with separate storm drain systems, runoff pollution is not treated and enters the bay and ocean.

Solutions to combating marine debris range in complexity, from not littering to allocating funds for new storm drain catchments in cities within watersheds that drain

## Join GGA for the 25th Coastal Cleanup San Francisco

From the intersection of Third St. and Caesar Chavez, go south on Third St. to Cargo Way. Turn left onto Cargo Way and make an immediate left onto Amador. Follow Amador toward the bay, passing the grain silos on your left, until you are forced to turn right near the temporary office. Look for the sign pointing to Pier 94. If you miss it, head south about 100 yards, turn left just north of the chain-link fence set in concrete, and head east along the fence toward the bay. The Pier 94 restoration site is about 100 yards in front of you.

## Oakland

Meet at the East Creek Slough parking lot. From I-880, take the 66th Ave./Zhong Way exit and head west toward the water. Turn right onto Oakport St. and past two parking lots. After Peppermint Gate, the next lot is right on the creek, at the corner of Oakport and Damon Marsh Trail. Park here and join the group.

to the Pacific. Such mandates are attainable and will require public pressure on regional water boards. But while plastic piles up along our coastline, immediate action is needed before it reenters the bay and threatens Pacific wildlife and even our own health.

—Anthony DeCicco,  
Eco-Education Program Manager

## Volunteer Opportunities and Events

### Sunday, September 6, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sunday Streets San Francisco. Enjoy the day walking, biking, or otherwise wheeling down the Great Highway, connecting Golden Gate Park to the San Francisco Zoo, along Ocean Beach. Come by the Golden Gate Audubon booth to learn more about Western Snowy Plovers and other San Francisco activities.

### Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Eco-Education volunteer training. Want to become an Eco-Educator? Join the crew working in East Oakland and Richmond teaching third and fourth graders about the bay and its inhabitants. RSVP required.

### Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m. – noon

For our second year of the National Audubon/Toyota Together

Green program, GGA received support for volunteer days at Harding Park in San Francisco. The TogetherGreen goals are to build conservation leadership, engage people in conservation action, and achieve lasting conservation results. Harding Park is an area designated for the future reintroduction of California Quail. Join us for monthly workdays at the park. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Sunset Blvd. and Lake Merced Blvd. at the statue.

### Sunday, September 13, 9 a.m. – noon

Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge workday. Help us prepare habitat for the California Least Terns. Meet at the main refuge gate at the northwest corner of the former Naval Air Station in Alameda.

For directions to any of the sites, contact Jennifer Robinson Maddox at [jrobinson@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:jrobinson@goldengateaudubon.org).



# CONSERVATION CORNER

## TERN COLONY STILL THREATENED

The California Least Terns appear to have had another productive year at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, with more than 350 breeding pairs returning to nest. Unfortunately, the U.S. Navy and the Veterans Administration continue with plans that imperil the Alameda colony. In June, the navy and Department of Veterans Affairs submitted their Biological Assessment (BA) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the proposed transfer of the refuge and construction of the VA's medical and memorial complex. Neither the VA nor the navy provided Golden Gate Audubon with a courtesy copy of the BA, and we were forced to request it under the Freedom of Information Act. The USFWS rejected the initial BA as insufficient and ordered the navy and VA to revise and resubmit their BA. We are continuing to monitor this process and will challenge the BA and any other environmental review documents in court if they do not provide sufficient protections for the terns.

## SUCCESS AT CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

We are happy to report that the City of Berkeley has selected the most "owl-friendly" art project to be installed in the Burrowing Owl habitat area of Cesar Chavez Park. Although we would have preferred to leave the habitat untouched for the owls, we believe that the city chose the least intrusive option. Many thanks to Della Dash, Kevin Consey, and our East Bay Conservation Committee for the many hours of work they put into this project.

## GOLF COURSE OR HABITAT?

Sequoia Audubon and Golden Gate Audubon have joined the effort to encourage an alternative use for Sharp Park, a failing golf course in Pacifica that is harming two endangered species, the San Francisco Garter Snake and the Red-legged Frog. We need volunteers to help convince the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to close the golf course and transfer it to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. This is one of the last great restoration opportuni-

ties along our coast, and we may not have another chance to restore the property in time to protect the endangered species on the site. To learn more about the restoration plans and how you can help, go to [www.restoresharppark.org](http://www.restoresharppark.org).



Noreen Weeden

*Birds that migrate at night, including Western Tanagers and other passerines, are confused by city lights. Across the U.S., millions are victims of fatal collisions with tall buildings.*

## LIGHTS OUT FOR BIRDS

Working with the American Bird Conservancy, San Francisco's Department of the Environment, PG&E, and other partners, Golden Gate Audubon encourages reduced night lighting of tall structures in the city, potentially preventing many bird collisions while conserving energy. Continuing this fall, the San Francisco Lights Out for Birds program offers an opportunity for volunteers to participate in citizen science by collecting birds that may have collided with buildings at night. To volunteer for the program, please contact Noreen Weeden at [nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org).

## FORT FUNSTON'S BANK SWALLOWS

This past spring Golden Gate Audubon volunteers worked with J. Patrick Furtado, biology intern at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), to monitor the Bank Swallow colony at Fort Funston, south of San Francisco. Nests from last year eroded during winter storms, prompting the swallows to build 150 new nests this season. We will continue to monitor the colony and

advocate for additional measures to prevent erosion and nest disturbances.

## LICENSE YOUR PET

Did you know that in San Francisco it is the law to license your pet? According to Animal Care and Control, of the 120,000 dogs in the city, only 20,000 are licensed. Licensing fees are inexpensive (\$12 lifetime for a cat, \$15 per year for an altered dog) and are a primary source of revenue for the city's Animal Shelter. Golden Gate Audubon worked closely with Animal Care and Control during the Cosco Busan oil spill and on the Lights Out for Birds program. If you have a pet, we urge you to license it. For more information, go to [www.sfgov.org/site/acc](http://www.sfgov.org/site/acc).

## JOIN A CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Find out about local Golden Gate Audubon projects. The East Bay Conservation Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Au Coquelet Restaurant, 1600 University at Milvia in Berkeley. The San Francisco Conservation Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Randall Museum.

## East Bay Office for Rent

Golden Gate Audubon is seeking a compatible tenant for a 200-square-foot space within its own offices in Berkeley. The rent is \$400 per month. Perfect for private law or consulting business. Shared wireless Internet. For more information, please contact Kevin Consey at 510.843.2222.

## GGA's Wish List

Golden Gate Audubon is soliciting donations of the following items: video and still cameras, binoculars, telescopes, and a vehicle to transport tools and equipment to restoration sites. To donate any of these items or for information related to these items, contact Kevin Consey at [kconsey@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:kconsey@goldengateaudubon.org).



## SPEAKER SERIES

JENNIFER ROBINSON MADDOX, COORDINATOR

### Optics Overview and Hands on Clinic

Steve White

Berkeley: Thursday, September 17

7 p.m. refreshments, 7:30 p.m. program

This invaluable clinic is for those who want to learn more about the primary tools of birdwatchers. Steve White, assistant manager at Scope City in San Francisco, will talk about the different types of binoculars and spotting scopes and the latest developments in optics. Topics include coatings, design, construction, magnification, aperture, exit pupil, eye relief, field of view, waterproofing, and quality. This program is a show-and-tell: Steve will bring binoculars and spotting scopes from Zeiss, Swarovski, Parks, Fujinon, Nikon, Canon, Brunton, and other manufacturers for you to test and compare. You can bring your own binoculars and scopes and learn how to clean and maintain them, as well as how to test your binoculars for alignment and quality.

Steve White, an astronomer, has taught astronomy and optics, and has more than two decades' experience testing and repairing

optics. For six years, White was a factory representative for TeleVue Optics and for two years handled product development, customer service, and repairs for Swift Optics. He also worked for many years as the head optical tech for Orion Telescopes and Binoculars.

As an added bonus, Scope City has a special offer for Golden Gate Audubon members who purchase optics at the store (350 Bay Street, San Francisco):

- 10 percent gift certificate with any purchase over \$100, applicable toward your next purchase
- Free cleaning and alignment check for any binoculars and spotting scopes
- Free training and setup (think digiscoping!)
- Warranty and repair support

**Berkeley Speaker Series:** Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (between Solano and Marin). Directions: [www.northbrae.org/directions.htm](http://www.northbrae.org/directions.htm)

## Luke Cole 1962–2009

The environmental community lost one of its most selfless members when Luke Cole was tragically killed June 6, 2009, in an auto accident while visiting Uganda. Luke was one of those rare individuals who pursued his vocation and avocations with a passion that few others could match.

Luke grew up in a privileged environment, culminating with his earning a JD from Harvard Law School. With his academic pedigree, he could have had his pick of lucrative positions at many law firms. Instead, Luke founded the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment (CRPE) in San Francisco almost 20 years ago. What started as his self-described "Luke Cole employment project" evolved into a 15-person environmental justice organization with a national reputation of providing unwavering support for underrepresented people throughout the country.

Luke's commitment to CRPE's principles was matched only by his stubborn will and absolute lack of fear even when taking on the biggest opponents. Whether preventing Chemical Waste Management

from building a toxic waste incinerator near Kettleman City, California, defending the Inupiat way of life against Big Oil in Kivalina, Alaska, or facing McCarthy-esque inquiries from hostile California state legislators, he never backed down. To celebrate Luke's contribution to CRPE, friends and colleagues are organizing a statewide birding event to raise funds for CRPE. (For details on the Luke Cole 400 Species \$40,000 Memorial Challenge, please visit [www.sffo.org](http://www.sffo.org). Also see the September 27 Alameda County field trip, page 7.)

Luke's passion for birds, birding, and conservation seemed boundless. His joy in finding and sharing birds was infectious, whether he was looking for the near-mythical Red Owl in Madagascar or simply trying to add a new species to his many county lists while traversing back roads in California. Luke was a leader on many Golden Gate Audubon-sponsored Christmas Bird Counts, and GGA members who attended his program in 2005 were fortunate to travel with him to Madagascar and hear about his experiences of living in Africa.

As with anything that Luke did, his passion for birds was matched by his expertise. He chaired the prestigious California Bird Records Committee, an organization responsible for vetting sightings of rare birds within the state. He was also a regional editor for *North American Birds*, a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the status and distribution of birds throughout North and Central America. Performing either of these tasks would be the pinnacle of many a birdwatcher's career; Luke did both.

I was fortunate to spend time in the field with Luke, and over the last few months, I've been thinking of the many ways I miss Luke. I'm still coming up with more and will likely be doing so for a long time to come. Rest in peace, my friend.

— Mark Eaton

Mark Eaton, an avid birdwatcher for almost 30 years, is cofounder along with Luke of the San Francisco Field Ornithologists, a group of like-minded individuals keenly interested in the status and distribution of birds in San Francisco. Mark can be reached through his personal website: [www.markeaton.org](http://www.markeaton.org).





# FIELD TRIPS

PAM BELCHAMBER, COORDINATOR

\$ Entrance fee

🚲 Biking trip

For questions about individual field trips, contact the leaders. If you cannot reach a leader, contact Pam Belchamber at 510.549.2839. Field trips are also listed on the Golden Gate Audubon website at [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org).

## Jewel Lake in Tilden

Berkeley

**Friday, September 4, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

Phila Rogers, 510.848.9156, [philajane6@yahoo.com](mailto:philajane6@yahoo.com)

We resume monthly first Friday trips at Tilden Regional Park. Meet at parking lot at north end of Central Park Dr. for a 1-mile, 2-hour-plus stroll through this lush riparian area. With most of the summer residents gone and most winter birds yet to arrive, we'll concentrate on the species that make Jewel Lake their year-round home. We are apt to see some migrants moving through the area.

## Birding for Everyone

San Francisco Botanical Garden

**Saturday, September 5, 10 a.m. – noon**

Angie Geiger and Nancy DeStefanis, SF Nature Education; Darin Dawson, SF Botanical Garden docent, 415.387.9160; [www.sfnature.org](http://www.sfnature.org)

Meet at front gate of garden in Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way, for a bird walk for adults and another for families (children must be accompanied by an adult). Adults \$10; children free. Reserva-

tions required for groups of 10 or more. Cosponsored by Botanical Garden, SF Nature Education, and GGA.

## San Francisco Botanical Garden

**Sunday, September 6, 8 – 10:30 a.m.**

Alan Ridley, [allanrid@pacbell.net](mailto:allanrid@pacbell.net); Helen McKenna, 415.566.3241; Ginny Marshall

Meet at front gate of garden in Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. This delightful section of the park has several micro-habitats that attract an array of resident, migrant, and vagrant birds. This monthly trip is oriented toward helping beginning birders develop their skills.

## 🚲 Hayward Regional Shoreline

Alameda County

**Saturday, September 12**

Kathy Jarrett, [kathy\\_jarrett@yahoo.com](mailto:kathy_jarrett@yahoo.com), 510.547.1233

Meet at 8 a.m. at San Leandro BART station following 7:55 arrival of train from Richmond and ride 2.5 miles to trailhead via Williams St. bike lane. Or meet at 8:30 at end of Monarch Bay Dr. adjacent to trailhead. We will go south on the SF Bay Trail from the San Leandro Marina to the

Hayward Regional Shoreline and Interpretive Center, making a 20-mile round-trip. High tide is at 9:16 a.m. Shorebirds should be flushed in by the tide. Some parts of the trails are paved; others easily negotiable. Dress for variable weather. Bicycle helmet required. Bring lunch and liquids. Rain cancels. Trip lasts into afternoon.

Car: From I-880 in San Leandro, take Marina Blvd. exit (west). After 1.4 miles, turn left onto Monarch Bay Dr. Go to end to last parking lot at San Leandro Marina Park. BART: From San Leandro BART, go south about 1 block to Williams St. and turn right; go about 3 miles to end and turn left, continuing onto Monarch Bay Dr.

## Lincoln Park

San Francisco

**Sunday, September 13, 8 – 11 a.m.**

David Armstrong, [darmstrong99@yahoo.com](mailto:darmstrong99@yahoo.com)

Meet on Merrie Way (parking lot up hill from Cliff House) for this walking tour of some of San Francisco's finest fall birding locations. We will cover 3–4 miles of varied terrain with some uphill climbs/stairs in search of migrants and vagrants. Trip limited to 20 people. Email leader to reserve a place.

## Corona Heights

San Francisco

**Friday, September 18, 8 – 10 a.m.**

Charles Hibbard; Brian Fitch; Dominik Mosur, [polkskatata@yahoo.com](mailto:polkskatata@yahoo.com)

Meet in front of Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, at end of Museum Way off Roosevelt. We will enjoy views of the city and bay as we circle Corona Heights, checking east canyon woodland and north forest for residents and migrants, as well as monitoring hilltop scrub and south cliff.

## Butterfly Walk

Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley

**Friday, September 18, 3 p.m.**

Sally Levinson [sal.levinson@gmail.com](mailto:sal.levinson@gmail.com), 510.849.1730

Meet outside park Nature Center off Central Park Dr. We will walk through the

## Study Bird Biology and Behavior with GGA

Bob Lewis and Rusty Scaif will teach a comprehensive course on bird biology and behavior, along with ecology, conservation, and other topics, based on a syllabus created by leading ornithologists and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The monthly class will reinforce individual learning, accomplished through self-study at home, and will include occasional field trips. Participants are given a generously illustrated 1,300-page textbook, an audio CD of bird sounds, online exams, and complete instructor support.

The class, starting on January 11, 2010, will meet in the GGA office on the second Monday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$350—payable to Golden Gate Audubon by October 31—and you must be a member of both GGA and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to register. Please contact Golden Gate Audubon to become a member and to sign up for this course. Go to [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org) or call 510.843.2222. Join the Cornell Lab of Ornithology by going online: [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu).

Jewel Lake area and look for butterflies such as Lorquin's Admirals, California Sisters, Common Buckeyes, Wood Nymphs, Blues, Whites, and Ringlets. Bring binoculars (close focusing are best) and a field guide if you have one.

### Coastal San Francisco

**Saturday, September 19, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
Dan Murphy, 415.564.0074, murphsf@comcast.net

Meet in parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. From Kennedy Dr., turn left at Chain of Lakes Dr.; lot is just past the lake to the left. We will bird Chain of Lakes, Lake Merced, and other western spots in search of early fall migrants. In the past we have seen a large variety of migrating flycatchers, vireos, warblers, sparrows, and finches. We may see some early hawk migration as well. Bring lunch and liquids. Be prepared for cold weather near coast.

### Briones Regional Park

**Sunday, September 20, 8:30 a.m. – noon**  
Rusty Scalf, rscalf@sonic.net

Briones has rolling grassy hills, with cool wooded ravines and several ponds. Streamside riparian growth is quite dense in places. We will search for grassland and oak woodland birds, and perhaps find some late migrants.

From Berkeley take Tunnel Rd. to Hwy. 24 to Orinda, then go north on Camino Pablo toward Richmond. Turn right at Bear Creek Rd., go 4.5 miles, and turn right into park. Turn left after kiosk and park. Entrance fee is charged on weekends.

### Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park

**Wednesday, September 23,  
9:30 a.m. – noon**

Hilary Powers, 510.834.1066, hilary@powersedit.com; Ruth Tobey, 510.528.2093, ruthtobey@earthlink.net

Meet at large spherical cage near Nature Center at Perkins and Bellevue. We will bird around there, then go up garden path toward Children's Fairyland or walk down lake toward Embarcadero, after which we will cover what we missed. The lake will be fairly quiet, but residents such

### Birding with Joe Morlan

Joe Morlan's classes, endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon, start in September: Field Ornithology I (introduction to birding) on September 15, Field Ornithology II (land birds) on September 16, and Field Ornithology III (waterfowl and other North American birds) on September 17. Continuing through late October, the classes meet 7–9:15 p.m. at Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore, San Francisco. Participants registering a week prior to the start of classes receive a \$10 discount. For details, go to Joe Morlan's website: <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmorlan/fall09.htm>. Follow the links to register for the classes.

as woodpeckers and herons should be out in force, and the earliest winter migrants should be making an appearance.

Take 12, N, or NL bus to Grand and Perkins, and walk into park on Perkins. Best parking is at boathouse lot near spherical cage. Entry (via Bellevue near Children's Fairyland) is free on weekdays.

### Luke Cole Memorial Birdathon

**Sunday, September 27, 9 a.m.**  
Bob Lewis, RLewis0727@aol.com

We meet at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, then continue on to Garin Regional Park, and finish the trip at Coyote Hills Regional Park. This trip is part of the Luke Cole 400 Species \$40,000 Memorial Challenge, a benefit for the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment (see page 5). The challenge is to identify 400 species in the state and raise money for the center in Luke's memory. Let's do our part in Alameda County and find our share of species to help the statewide team. Please expect to contribute \$25 each. Bring your contribution made out to Golden Gate Audubon, along with binoculars, field guides, lunch, and liquids.

### Candlestick Point

**Sunday, September 27, 9 a.m. – noon**  
Dominik Mosur, polskatata@yahoo.com

Candlestick Point is a hidden gem in the Bayview–Hunter's Point area. Not only has the park been listed as a possible closure due to state budget cuts, but it is under threat of development. Surveys show that 148 species of birds, 14 species of butterflies, and 10 species of mammals regularly use the park and adjacent waters. We'll bird the mudflats, then move to the main lot for a walk out to the fishing pier.

Meet at Last Port, the first parking area after exiting Hwy. 101. Take Candlestick Park exit and head toward bay. Last Port is on your right, with Monster Park on your left.

### San Francisco Bay Wood Dolphin Charters

**Saturday, November 21,  
9:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Pamela Llewellyn, seacreature219@sbcglobal.net

Meet at Berkeley Marina by 9:45 a.m. for departure at 10 a.m. to see the San Francisco Bay by boat. The largest and one of the most important estuaries along the Pacific Flyway is right in our own backyard. Join Pamela Llewellyn and Dolphin Charters as we cruise San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay waters, home to thousands of wintering birds. We will pass Alcatraz and head toward Point Bonita, where we will tour the southern edge of the Marin Headlands and, weather permitting, travel under the Golden Gate Bridge to the point. Then we'll head to the shore of Angel Island, under the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge, past the Marin Islands and the Brothers and Sisters Islands, to Red Rock, and back down along the Richmond shoreline. Many of these areas can be seen only by boat. In addition to the many wintering ducks, loons, grebes, and gulls, we expect to see resident cormorants, pelicans, and murre. We'll find seals and sea lions feeding and basking and, with luck, an occasional porpoise. Dress in layers. Bring binoculars, liquids, and lunch.

Trip is limited to 32 people. Cost is \$85 for GGA members, \$95 for nonmembers. Reserve by contacting Stephanie Strait, GGA Office Manager, 510.843.2222 or [ggas@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:ggas@goldengateaudubon.org). Payment must be received by October 17.



# CLASSES

## ALBANY ADULT SCHOOL

The following five classes are held in the East Bay at the Albany Adult School. Class fees are noted in the AAS website, [www.albany.k12.ca.us/adult](http://www.albany.k12.ca.us/adult).

### Beginning Birding by Ear

Denise Wight, [blkittiwake@yahoo.com](mailto:blkittiwake@yahoo.com)

Thursdays, September 10 – October 15, 7 – 8:30 p.m., plus three Saturday field trips, September 12, September 26, and October 10, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Fall is a great time to start birding by ear and learning some of the Bay Area birds that stay for the winter or are here all year long. We will listen to bird sounds in class and visit three different habitats. Go to [www.blkittiwake.com](http://www.blkittiwake.com) for field trip locations and more class details.

### Birding by Ear

Denise Wight, [blkittiwake@yahoo.com](mailto:blkittiwake@yahoo.com)

Thursdays, October 22 – November 19, 7 – 8:30 p.m., plus four Saturday field trips, October 24 – November 14, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Continue learning or refining your birding by ear skills for late fall and winter. We will listen for songs and calls on the four field trips to Bay Area locations.

### Birds and Butterflies: Easy Garden Enchantment

Corinne Greenberg, [www.thegardenisateacher.com](http://www.thegardenisateacher.com)

Tuesdays, October 6 – 27, 7 – 9 p.m., plus one Saturday field trip, October 31, 8:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Welcome birds, butterflies, and other beneficial creatures to your yard. Learn about California native plants, water-saving gardening, and creating wildlife habitat. Class includes excellent slide presentation. A \$5 materials fee is payable to instructor.

### Bay Area Birds

Rusty Scalf, [rscaf@sonic.net](mailto:rscaf@sonic.net); Bob Lewis, [bob@wingbeats.org](mailto:bob@wingbeats.org)

Wednesdays, October 7 – November 18, 7 – 8:30 p.m., plus five Saturday or Sunday morning field trips, and one weekend trip following the last class (no class on November 11 and no field trips on November 14–15)

It's fall, and the shorebirds are back. Waterfowl crowd refuges and reservoirs, and raptors ply the air. It's a great time to get to know local birds, through illustrated lectures and interesting field trips. Go to [www.wingbeats.org](http://www.wingbeats.org) for more details, including field trip locations and bird lists from previous years.

### Beginning Birding

Anne Hoff, [anne2210b@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anne2210b@sbcglobal.net)

Wednesdays, October 14 – November 4, 7 – 8:30 p.m., plus five Saturday field trips, October 17 – November 14, 9 – 11:30 a.m. (no class on November 11)

## Wild Birds of San Francisco: Fall Migration

Eddie Bartley, [eddie@naturetrip.com](mailto:eddie@naturetrip.com), [www.naturetrip.com](http://www.naturetrip.com)

Tuesdays, September 29 and October 20, 7 – 9 p.m., plus four Saturday field trips, October 3 – 24, the last being a day trip to the Sacramento Delta

Explore the phenomenon of fall migration and discover the local habitats where migrants are found. Presentations include information specific to area migrants using colorful bird imagery and range maps, ID techniques, and discussions of physiology and evolutionary adaptations. We'll have opportunities to view raptors, waterfowl, and songbirds as they pass through in migration or arrive to set up for the winter, as well as observe resident species. Carpooling will be encouraged; if you don't drive or own a car, contact the instructor for information.

This class, cosponsored by the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society, is held at the society's County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park. Fee is \$85. To register, call GGA at 510.843.2222.

This introduction covers identification, habitats, and use of equipment. Learn to recognize the common fall birds of the Bay Area and where to find them. Lots of color photos.

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON

The following two classes are offered by Golden Gate Audubon and held at the GGA office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. Fee for each class is \$80. To register, call 510.843.2222.

### Shorebird Migration

Bob Lewis, [bob@wingbeats.org](mailto:bob@wingbeats.org)

Tuesdays, September 29 – October 13, 7 – 9 p.m., plus three Sunday morning field trips, October 3 – 17

Topics include migration and reproduction strategies of shorebirds, worldwide shorebird taxonomy, and the more difficult identification issues of local shorebirds. For details, go to [www.wingbeats.org](http://www.wingbeats.org).

### North American Owls

Dave Quady, [davequady@att.net](mailto:davequady@att.net)

November 3, 4, 10, and 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m. plus three weekend evening field trips (dates to be determined)

Seldom seen but often heard, owls hold a fascination. Learn what makes an owl different from other birds and how to identify owls by sight and sound, and learn more about their habits and habitats. Classes will be illustrated with slides and with the sounds of these birds of the night. Field trips will attempt to hear and see local species. Sign-ups begin at noon on Monday, August 31.





# OBSERVATIONS

BRUCE MAST

MAY 1 – JULY 31, 2009

## LOONS TO DUCKS

A trio of CBRC review species leads off this month, starting with an *Arctic Skua* (Gavin arctic), observed June 15 from the privately owned beach at Sea Ranch, SON (TE, oob). Beginning June 26, observers documented a *Yellow-billed Loon* (*Colinus adamsii*) as it molted into alternate plumage on Bodega Harbor, SON (RTo; mob). A seawatch from Pigeon Pt., SM, on May 14 turned up a well-described but tentatively ID'd Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) (RTh).

A Little Blue Heron returned for a 2nd year to ALA Cr. in Fremont, ALA, starting July 11 (DL; DWe, JD, SF). Another Little Blue at the mouth of Gazos Cr. on July 9 was just the 6th SM record (RTh, LB; GS). A short-tailed Long-tailed Duck at Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay (SON), was still sporting worn winter plumage on June 3 (PC).

## RAPTORS TO ALCIDS

A Broad-winged Hawk soloed over Battery Godfrey, SF, on May 16 (HC). The next day, a Common Raven chased a Zone-tailed Hawk out of Cole Valley, SF (PS). Northbound shorebird migration continued through May with a Solitary Sandpiper May 11–12 at Coyote Pt., SM (RTh; LB, KO, DM), and a Stilt Sandpiper May 30 at Salt Pond A16, SCL (RJ, MM, MR). Southbound migration got under way by late July, with a Ruff on July 26 at Salt Pond A16 (Dwe) and FOS Pacific Golden-Plover and Semipalmated Sandpiper on July 31, the former at Coyote Pt., SM (RTh), and the latter at the Doran Park mudflats at Bodega Harbor (LiH, EB).

The gull flock at Drake's Beach, PRNS, MRN, included a Laughing Gull, 2 Franklin's Gulls, and 2 Sabine's Gulls May 12–13 (RS, LiH, oob). Another Franklin's cruised past Pigeon Pt., SM, on the 16th (RTh). Among the more extraordinary sightings this period, a Gull-billed Tern was reported May 3 at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL (MD, LeH), and again May 17–18 at Radio Rd., Redwood Shores, SM (LiH; mob). These sightings would be the 1st anywhere north



Eastern Kingbird, photographed on June 21 in Golden Gate Park.

of Santa Ynez River in SBA. In addition to the Arctic Loon, Sea Ranch vacationers on June 15 discovered a *Black-billed Gull* (*Larus luscus*) and a Horned Puffin (TE, oob). Another Horned Puffin crossed into SM waters at Waddell Beach on June 9 (DS).

## DOVES TO THRASHERS

Eastern Kingbirds visited the West Coast May 16 in Half Moon Bay, SM (DWi); June 1–3 at Mendoza (B) Ranch, PRNS (JM, RC); and June 17–21 at Sharon Meadows, GGP, SF (RB, ME; mob). On June 6, an adult male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher apparently confused Salt Pond A1 with Oklahoma (BB).

Birding the PRNS Lighthouse trees on June 6 turned up a *White-throated Sparrow*, which, fide RS, would be just the 5th MRN record (ST, LT; mob).

Red-eyed Vireos stopped over in Pescadero, SM, May 17 (GH, MK) and at Glen Cyn. Park, SL, June 2 (DA). Along Loma Prieta Rd., SCL, 3 Purple Martins demonstrated potential nesting behavior June 6–July 21 (BR, FV; mob). On July 26, a juvenile Purple Martin was found hanging out with the Violet-Green Swallow flock at Monte Bello OSP, SCL (GH).

## WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Late May and early June brought the annual spring vagrant wave, with highlights including an 8th MRN record for Yellow-throated Warbler, found May 17 at the PRNS Lighthouse (AK, Dominik Mosur), and a Prairie Warbler, banded and photographed May 31 at the Palomarin Field Station, MRN (PRBO staff). The season tally also included a Tennessee Warbler; 6–8 Northern Parulas; 1 Chestnut-sided, 4 Magnolia, 1 Cape May, and 5–7 Black-and-white Warblers; 5–7 American Redstarts; a couple Ovenbirds; at least 5 Hooded Warblers; 16 or more Yellow-breasted Chats; a couple Summer Tanagers; 27 or more Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; a half-dozen Blue Grosbeaks; and 13 or more Indigo Buntings.

A Henry Coe SP (SCL) fire survey tallied 5 Black-chinned Sparrows on May 3 (MR). A Black-throated Sparrow wandered up to Fairmont Ridge in Anthony Chabot RP, ALA, on May 1 (GMC) and another made it out to the PRNS Lighthouse on the 17th (ME, AH). Finally, an Orchard Oriole was a surprising find along Gazos Cr., SM, on June 30 (DS).

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers, "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listservs, the author apologizes for any errors or omissions. Special thanks to Rod Thornton for helping compile Observations data.

**Abbreviations for Observers:** AH, Alan Hopkins, AK, Andy Kleinhesselink; BB, Bill Bousman, BR, Bob Reiling, DA, David Armstrong, DL, David Leahy; DM, Domink Mosur, DS, David Suddjian; Dwe, Dave Weber, DWi, Dan Williams, EB, Ellen Blustein; EDB, Ed DeBellevue, EEG, Edwin Earl Geer Sr., FV, Frank Vanslager, GH, Garth Harwood, GMC, Gerry McChesney, GS, Gary Strachan, HC, Hugh Cotter; JD, Joe Devine, JM, Jeff Miller, KO, Kris Olson; LB, Leonie Batkin; LeH, Lee Hung; LiH, Lisa Hug, LJ, Lisa Jorgensen, LT, Linda Terrill, MD, Mike Danzenbaker, ME, Mark Eaton; MK, Mark Kudrav, MM, Michael Mammoser, MR, Mike Rogers, PC, Peter Colasanti; PS, Paul Saraceni; RB, Richard Bradus; RC, Richard Cimino, RJ, Richard Jeffers, RS, Rich Stallcup; RTh, Ron Thorn; Rto, Ruth Tonascia, SF, Stephanie Floyd, ST, Scott Terrill; TE, Todd Easterla

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; CBRC, California Bird Records Committee; CC, Contra Costa, CP, County Park; Cr., Creek, Cyn., Canyon, FOS, first of season; GGP, Golden Gate Park; L., Lake; MRN, Marin; Mt., Mount, N., North, NAP, Napa, NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; OSP, Open Space Preserve; PRBO, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, PRNS, Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Pt., Point, Rd., Road, Res., Reservoir, RP, Regional Park, RS, Regional Shoreline; S., South, SB, State Beach; SBA, Santa Barbara, SCL, Santa Clara; SF, San Francisco, SFBBO, SF Bay Bird Observatory, SM, San Mateo, SOL, Solano, SON, Sonoma, SP, State Park, SR, State Reserve; WPCP, Water Pollution Control Plant

# GGA's New Line-up of Big Trips

In 2009–10, Golden Gate Audubon members are invited to participate in four field trips to renowned birding destinations. For applications and detailed information, please contact Ruth Tobey, 510.528.2093 or [ruthtobey@gmail.com](mailto:ruthtobey@gmail.com).

Mark Pretti will lead two trips to Oaxaca, Mexico: December 1–11, 2009 and January 5–15, 2010. Each is limited to eight participants. Knowledgeable about birds, flowers, trees, and butterflies, he has a special gift for sharing his extensive interest in flora and fauna. Exploring a variety of habitats, we expect to see many of the 330-plus species of birds found on previous trips. We'll also visit the Zapotec ruins of Monte Alban and spend a day with Susana Trilling as we tour the Mercado Abastos, and savor a delicious lunch at her cooking school. Cost is projected to be \$2,500 per person based on double occupancy and includes all lodging,

meals, admissions, and transportation from Oaxaca City. Part of the cost is a \$150 tax-deductible donation to GGA. A deposit of \$100 per person is required.

From April 26 to May 2, 2010, Mark Pretti will lead a trip to Southeast Arizona, where species from the Rocky Mountains and Mexico's Sierra Madre come together. The trip encompasses many of Southeast Arizona's hotspots: Madera Canyon, the Patagonia area, Ramsey and Garden canyons in the Huachuca Mountains, and the San Pedro River. The cost of \$1,450 per person includes a \$150 tax-deductible contribution to GGA.

In late August or early September 2010, Harry Fuller will lead a trip to Malheur Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. At this major birding hotspot, fall migration brings enormous concentrations of shorebirds and thousands of Greater Sandhill Cranes. Our

group, limited to 10, will spend two or three days also looking for Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Short-eared Owl, Wilson's Snipe, and other species. Price for this trip, still to be determined, will include a \$50 donation to GGA.

In October 2010 we will offer a trip to Veracruz for the "River of Raptors" migration, in partnership with ProNatura, a Mexican conservation group. During fall migration, on a good day, over 100,000 migrant vultures and raptors are seen; on a Big Day, over 500,000 have been counted. An estimated 10 million passerines and waterbirds pass by each day. We will have the option of a basic 9-day tour for \$2,100 (with 8–10 participants) or an extended 12-day tour to include Los Tuxtlas rain forest (if 6 participants elect to stay) for \$2,650. A \$150 donation to GGA is part of the price.

## FESTIVAL from page 1

festival. Like Whitney, Ethel grew up in Parchester Village on the North Richmond shoreline. She was also an outspoken advocate for open space on the shoreline, and her efforts to protect it, along with those of many other local activists, were critical to the East Bay Regional Park District's decision to acquire Breuner Marsh and add it to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline.

To recognize her accomplishments, festival organizers are raising funds to place a bench and plaque in her honor overlooking the shoreline. The memorial will be dedicated during the festival. "This will give future activists a place to reflect on Ethel's accomplishments and the beauty of the shoreline," Whitney notes.

Golden Gate Audubon also has been engaged in protecting the North Richmond shoreline. Beginning in fall of 2007, GGA collaborated on a year-long, community-based census to collect data on the presence of birds and their use of the shoreline. That same year, GGA expanded its award-winning Eco-Education program into local elementary schools, bringing students and

families to the North Richmond shoreline to experience the environment and learn about the local wildlife.

Thanks to funding from National Audubon and Toyota's TogetherGreen grant, Golden Gate Audubon is a sponsor of this year's festival and will lead shoreline bird walks and other family activities.

"This festival is going to be our best to date," says Whitney Dotson. "Hopefully, we

can use this opportunity to convince everyone of the value of the shoreline—for birds and for people."

—Rich Walkling

*Rich Walkling, a member of Golden Gate Audubon's board of directors, is a restoration planner with Restoration Design Group. He has been involved in the North Richmond shoreline since 2001.*

## North Richmond Shoreline Festival

Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, 5551 Giant Highway, Richmond  
Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Come out and celebrate the North Richmond shoreline. The festival, sponsored by the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance, includes birding, hiking, marsh walks, a scavenger hunt, live music, a dance contest, a youth stage and DJs, and a children's activity area, plus a barbecue and prizes. All activities, including the barbecue, are free.

Shuttle service is available from locations in Richmond and San Pablo. For more information on the festival, go to [www.northrichmondshoreline.org](http://www.northrichmondshoreline.org). If you are interested in volunteering with Golden Gate Audubon, please contact Jennifer Robinson Maddox at 510.843.9374 or [jrobinson@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:jrobinson@goldengateaudubon.org).



Are Ecology, Sierra Club, and Literacy for Environmental Justice in opposing efforts to construct a bridge over Yosemite Slough, which runs through the park. Perhaps more worrisome, State Senator Mark Leno has introduced legislation to authorize the sale of approximately 40 acres of Candlestick Point SRA to the city for development by the Lennar Corporation. The bill would

reduce the size of the SRA by about 25 percent while adding only 5 percent to Lennar's development, and would fail to provide any protection for the SRA's natural or community resources.

We ask you to contact your state Assembly and Senate representatives and the governor and urge them to oppose SB 792. For more information, please contact Mike Lynes at [mlynes@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:mlynes@goldengateaudubon.org).

## RESTORING THE SHORELINE

Golden Gate Audubon has always supported efforts to protect and restore tidal wetlands and other shoreline habitats along the waterfront. In 2002, GGA initiated its own restoration project at Pier 94. With the help of the Port of San Francisco, other partners, and dedicated volunteers, we have helped transform Pier 94 from a local dumping site

**SOUTHERN WATERFRONT** continued on page 11

## Donations

Thank you for your generous donations to support our many conservation, education, and member activities!

### Individual Donations

Allan Ridley & Helen McKenna (to support education programs)  
Robert Speckels  
William F. Weeden (to support GGAS efforts in Alameda)

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**Anonymous:** for Eco-Education Programs in honor of Bob Lewis and Dave Quay.

**Atia Schreiber:** in honor of Noreen Weeden and Eddie Bartley.

**Samantha Davies and City National Bank:** in honor of Swoops.

**The Bokan-Smith Family, Charin Garcia, Walter Haub, and Gerald Hennis:** in memory of Philippe Devigne.

**Marjorie Blackwell, Kevin & Susan Consey, Bob Lewis, Mike Lynes, Phil Price & Juliet Lamont, and Mark Welther:** in memory of Ethel Dotson (gifts forwarded to the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance).

**Marjorie Blackwell, Kevin Consey, Anthony DeCicco, Judith Dunham, Patricia K. Eckhardt, Leora Feeney, Bob Lewis, Miles & Mel McKey, Mark Mushkat, Al Peters, Allan Ridley & Helen McKenna, Linda Vallee, Rich Walkling, Noreen Weeden & Eddie Bartley, and Mark Welther:** in memory of John Austin (gifts forwarded to the Boulder Community Alliance).

**Diane Ichiyasu:** in memory of Burt Simmons.

**Kevin Consey:** Stock.

**Elise Eichhorn:** Digital camera and two scanners.

**Linda James:** Books.

**Michael McMichael Jr.:** Binoculars.

**Jim Scarff:** Books.

**David B. Gold Foundation:** Eco-Education Programs  
**TogetherGreen Volunteer Days** (an Audubon and Toyota initiative): San Francisco, Harding Park  
**Mary A. Crocker Trust:** Birds At Risk  
**Reducing Avian Fatalities at the Altamont Pass National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Nature Restoration Trust:** Eco-Education Programs  
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### SOUTHERN WATERFRONT from page 11

to a flourishing salt marsh that hosts a rare reproducing stand of the endangered California sca-blite (*Suaeda californica*).

Local birds have responded positively. In spring and summer, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, and Killdeer breed in the salt marsh. In fall and winter, flocks of shorebirds forage in the wetland, and large rafts of waterfowl collect offshore.

There is still much work to be done at Pier 94. While continuing to remove exotics and return native plants to the sandy shore, we are turning our efforts to developing a restoration plan for the coastal scrub uplands. We hope to plant and encourage the growth of other natives such as toyon, beachbur, sagebrush, coyote bush, coffeeberry, gumplant, goldenrod, and bee plant.

We are also concerned about increasing reports of ill and dead gulls observed at and around Pier 94. With the help of many members, we have documented these incidents and urged the Port of San Francisco to take action. The California Department of Fish and Game is now investigating the mysterious source and acting to prevent recurrences.

In 2008, Golden Gate Audubon was awarded a TogetherGreen Innovative Grant from National Audubon and Toyota to enhance community involvement in Bayview and Hunter's Point. With these funds,

we have expanded our restoration efforts, while getting the word out to the community. Bird walks and classes with local organizations have also increased, and we are hoping to extend these offerings to the neighbors of Pier 94.

None of the accomplishments at Pier 94 would have been possible without financial support from the Port of San Francisco, San Francisco Bay Natural Resource Protection Funds from the Cape Mohican 1996 oil spill mitigation, California Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project, and neighbors Hanson Aggregates and Norcal Waste Management, as well as the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who participate in our monthly workdays. To learn how you can get involved in our Pier 94 restoration work, please contact Jennifer Robinson Maddox at [jrobinson@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:jrobinson@goldengateaudubon.org).

### SURVEYING THE PIERS

In 2007, the Port of San Francisco published a list of condemned piers to be removed along the southern waterfront. Golden Gate Audubon became concerned that the project would affect nesting birds, particularly a Caspian Tern colony on a dilapidated pier adjacent to Aqua Vista Park. This site supports the only known nesting colony of Caspian Terns in San Francisco.

GGA organized annual surveys of the piers to document nesting, loafing, and roosting and has issued recommendations to the port to prevent disturbances to the nesting birds. Thanks to these efforts, the port is considering mitigation projects to provide alternative nesting habitat for the terns and other birds as the dangerous and contaminated piers are removed.

Golden Gate Audubon is also working with Mission Bay Green Vision, a new organization of people living and working in Mission Bay who are dedicated to promoting open space, native plants, and natural values and advocating that these elements be included in the redevelopment of the southern waterfront. To learn more and get involved, please contact Noreen Weeden at [nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org).

### LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming years, the Port of San Francisco and the city of San Francisco will continue their redevelopment efforts along the southern waterfront, including India Basin, Pier 70, and the former naval shipyard. Please take the time to get involved and help Golden Gate Audubon succeed in advocating for the restoration and protection of open space, natural shorelines, and native plants that will benefit birds and other wildlife and the many people who enjoy them.